

Application No. 09/759,462
Amdt. Dated September 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 23, 2004
Docket No. 2001-1144

REMARKS

The indication that claims 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, and 19 have been allowed is acknowledged with thanks.

The Official Action of August 12, 2003 indicated that claims 4 and 5 included patentable subject matter. Claims 4 and 5 were not substantively rejected in the Official Action of January 23, 2004, and thus are believed to be allowable (the allowability of these claims was confirmed in a telephone conversation with Examiner Grant on September 22, 2004). In reliance thereon, claims 1-2 and 6-9 have been canceled to place the application in condition for allowance.

In response to the Examiner's comment regarding the parenthetical numbers in the claims, reference characters enclosed within parentheses and corresponding to elements recited in the detailed description are permitted (MPEP 608.01(m)).

In view of the present amendment, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Please note that this amendment is being filed in lieu of the Appeal Brief that would have been filed following the filing of the Notice of Appeal on July 22, 2004.

It is believed that the presently presented paper on its face clearly places the application in condition for

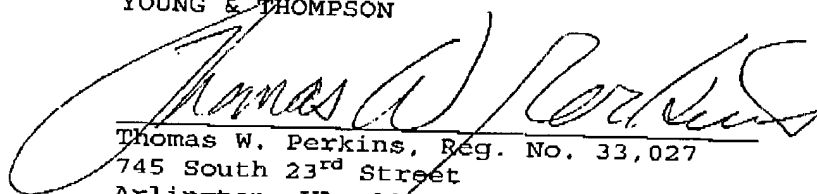
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allowance and it is requested that the present paper be entered and that a Notice of Allowability be sent.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. \$1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. \$1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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TWP/lrs